

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars:

Rejection of claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Allowable subject matter

Claims 1 and 8 presently stand rejected as being unpatentable over Kaneko in view of Roscoe. However, the examiner has indicated that claims 2-5 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The examiner's indication of allowable claims is noted with appreciation. In this regard, claim 1 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Claim 2 is cancelled accordingly, and claim 3 is amended to correct its dependency, and withdrawn claim 6 is cancelled, leaving claims 3-5, 7, and 8 depending from claim 1. New independent claim 9 has been added, corresponding to the allowable subject matter of claim 4, and new dependent claims 10-14, depending from claim 9, have been added corresponding to the original dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 7, and 8. Additionally, new independent claim 15 has been added, corresponding to the allowable subject matter of claim 7, and new dependent claims 16-20, depending from claim 15, have been added corresponding to the original dependent claims 2-5 and 8.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended correspond to allowable subject matter as indicated by the examiner. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Every effort has been made to place the application fully in condition for allowance, and to remove all issues raised by the Examiner in the Official Action.

In view of the amendments to the claims, and in further view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Application No.: 10/628,515
Examiner: R. C. Watson
Art Unit: 3723

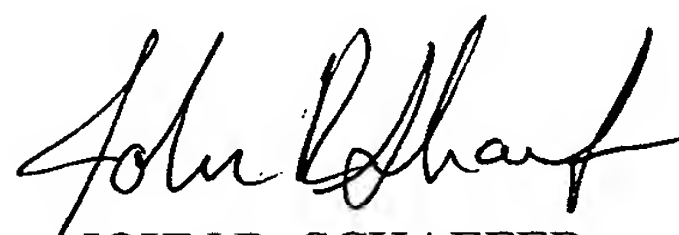
Accordingly, it is requested that claims 1, 3-5, and 7-20 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown.

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Date: November 30, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Schaefer", written in a cursive style.

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